



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

O'Holloran et al.

Serial No. 09/863,074

Filed: May 21, 2001

Title: Surgical Needle with Hand-
Actuable Lock Mechanism

) Examiner: Matthew F. Desanto

) Art Unit: 3763

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop AF
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

RECEIVED
MAR 22 2004
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is responsive to the final Office Action mailed on September 12, 2003.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

03/18/2004 AWONDAF1 00000122 09863074

02 FC:2253

475.00 OP

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 that this paper or fee (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on the date shown below in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Dated: March 12, 2004

By:

Cheryl J. Blackman

1-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) A surgical tool for depositing material within living tissue, comprising:

a delivery tube for penetrating living tissue and delivering material to within living tissue;

an inner member held within the delivery tube to push material through the tube;

a releasable lock operatively connected to the tube to selectively limit movement of the inner member relative to the tube lock including outwardly biased arms and locking surfaces formed on fingers extending inwardly from the arms, wherein the locking surfaces are approximately V-shaped; and

a tab formed on at least one of the fingers and operable to interlock with a hole on an opposing finger to hold the arms in a partially closed position.

22. (Currently amended) A surgical tool for depositing material within living tissue, comprising:

a delivery tube for penetrating living tissue and delivering material to within living tissue;

an inner member held within the delivery tube to push material through the tube;

a releasable lock operatively connected to the tube to selectively limit movement of the inner member relative to the tube lock including outwardly biased arms and locking surfaces formed on fingers extending inwardly from the arms, wherein the locking surfaces are approximately V-shaped; and

a tab formed on at least one of the fingers and operable to interlock with a hole on an opposing finger to hold the arms in a partially closed position, wherein the holes and fingers are sized such that limited or no contact occurs between the locking surfaces and the inner member, when the arms are squeezed toward one another to a fully squeezed position.

23. (Currently amended) A surgical tool for depositing material within living tissue, comprising:

a delivery tube for penetrating living tissue and delivering material to within living tissue;

an inner member held within the delivery tube to push material through the tube;

a releasable lock operatively connected to the tube to selectively limit movement of the inner member relative to the tube lock including outwardly biased arms and locking surfaces formed on fingers extending inwardly from the arms, wherein the locking surfaces are approximately V-shaped; and

a tab formed on at least one of the fingers and operable to interlock with a hole on an opposing finger to hold the arms in a partially closed position, wherein the

holes and fingers are sized such that frictional contact with the inner member occurs when the arms are squeezed toward one another to a fully squeezed position, so that the inner member may be locked in both the unsqueezed position and the fully squeezed position of the arms.

24-25 (Cancelled)

26. (Currently amended) A surgical tool for depositing material within living tissue, comprising:

a delivery tube for penetrating living tissue and delivering material to within living tissue;

an inner member held within the delivery tube to push material through the tube;

a releasable lock operatively connected to the tube to selectively limit movement of the inner member relative to the tube lock including outwardly biased arms and locking surfaces formed on fingers extending inwardly from the arms, wherein the locking surfaces are approximately V-shaped; and

a tab formed on at least one of the fingers and operable to interlock with a hole on an opposing finger to hold the arms in a partially closed position, wherein the lock includes a spring for holding the lock in a biased, locking position.

27. (Cancelled)